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Title: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laid a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 16th Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petro Chemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table this statement on the status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants for 2007-08 of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) in pursuance of the directions issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) for the year 2007-08 and presented their Sixteenth Report to Lok Sabha on 26.04.2007. The Report contains 18 Recommendations. The gist of the Recommendations is as follows:

I) Implementation of partially implemented recommendations in the XIth Report on Demands for Grants 2006-07.

II) Proportionate utilization of funds during each year of Xth Five Year Plan.

III) Completion of formalities for medium and long term programmes of the Deptt. for Xlth Plan.

IV) Timely completion of 3 new CIPET centers in the state of Haryana, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

V) Coordination with Ministry of Urban Dev. & State Govt. for providing safe drinking water in area affected by Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster.

VI) * Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7703/07

VII) VI) Removal of toxic waste from Union Carbide plant site at Bhopal.

VIII) Starting of Assam Gas Cracker Project without any further delay.

IX) Filling up post of Director & recruitment of scientists in IPFT.

IX) Completion of new schemes (setting up of new NIPERs) in a time bound manner.

X) Safety of general public while producing chemicals.

XI) Finalization of National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006.

XII) Export of pharmaceuticals.

XIII) Proper utilization of funds allocated for Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme (CPDS).

XIV) Publicity of scheme of "Interest Subsidy" among small sector industries.

XV) Providing of more autonomy and development of effective managerial skill among officers of sick PSUs besides financial support.

XVI) Desistance from frequent change in economic policy and arrangement of inputs in-tandem for the caustic soda plant in Rasayani by HOCL.

XVII) Implementation of recommendations of BRPSE for revival of IDPL.

XVIII) Implementation of revival proposal of PSUs in a time bound manner and urgent steps for revival of IDPL and taking over of BIL.

The Standing Committee has analyzed the recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants 2006-07. The mandatory EFC/SFC for long term programmes of the Department are being held. The basic machineries for conducting training programmes in three new Centres of CIPET have been installed and projects are likely to be completed by March 2009. However, all the three Centres are functional in hired premises. Govt. of India has sanctioned funds for a project under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) from which the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh had sanctioned Rs.

14.18 crore to Bhopal Municipal Corp. for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around Union Carbide India Ltd. plant site. Govt. of India has contributed Rs. 1.00 cr. to the account opened for the removal of toxic waste from Union Carbide Plant Site at Bhopal so far for the implementation of the road map. As per directions of Supreme Court, pro rata compensation to the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster had been completed.

An application in respect of nearly 19000 absentee claimants had been filed by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner in the Hon. Supreme Court on 23.8.06 to treat all such cases as closed. The matter is still pending in the Supreme Court. The Govt of India has sanctioned Rs. 30.00 crore on 31.10.07 as Capital Subsidy to Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd. for implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project. The shortage of manpower in IPFT has been plugged by appointing 7 scientists and one Hindi Translator. The selected candidate for Director IPFT has joined the Organisation. Cabinet has accorded in principle approval to start six NIPERs at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Hajipur (Bihar), Kolkata (West Bengal), Guwahati (Assam) and Raebareli (Utter Pradesh). The National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 has been referred by Cabinet to a Group of Ministers for examination and making recommendations. The Cabinet has approved the Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) in its meeting held on 8* March, 2007. Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals is the nodal Department for this policy. Trade Promotion and investment in the sector is being promoted through 'India Chem' and participation in other such events using 'Chemical Promotion and Development Scheme' fund. The scheme of "Interest Subsidy" to enable the units in the small scale to fulfil the stipulated criteria of Schedule 'M' of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is under consideration of Planning Commission. An MOU has also been signed between Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Public Sector Undertakings which provides for issues concerning more autonomy and delegation of powers to CPSUs. The recommendation of BRPSE for revival of IDPL was placed before Cabinet which has referred the proposal to a Group of Ministers. Group of Ministers has been constituted and first meeting of Group of Ministers was held on 11.10.2007. The Committee, constituted to explore the possibility of revival of Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL) recommended revival of BIL through public private partnership mode. Procedural aspects of the above are under examination.

Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL) has come out of BIFR and Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) has also started showing profits. Funds to restart the Caustic Chlorine Plant of HOCL has also been sanctioned to the tune of Rs.20.00 crore.

12.12 hrs.